

Claim Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 29 and 30. Applicants set forth below a complete listing of the claims with the corresponding status indicated for each claim.

1. (Previously Presented) The printing system of claim 29, wherein:
each tag comprises a memory with logic which stores the manufacturing date data of the associated ink, and a source which generates a signal relating to the data; and
wherein the reader/writer is adapted to read the signal from the identified tag.
2. (Cancelled) .
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the signal comprises a radio frequency signal.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory also stores data that identifies the color of the associated ink.
- 5-6. (Cancelled).
7. (Previously Presented) The printing system of claim 29, further comprising a disabler circuit coupled to the controller, the disabler circuit adapted to disable the printing system if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Previously Presented) The printing system of claim 29, wherein each tag is attached to the associated container.

10. (Previously Presented) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the signal from the identified tag is transmitted to the reader/writer wirelessly.

11. (Previously Presented) The printing system of claim 29, wherein each of the tags comprise radio frequency (RF) identification tags.

12-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising using the reader/writer to wirelessly read the data from the identified tag.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the data from the identified tag is read via a radio frequency (RF) signal.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising disabling the printing system if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Currently Amended) A printing system comprising:

a plurality of ink containers, each ink container adapted to be installed in the printing system and comprising an ink and an associated tag, each tag comprising rewritable data that identifies a manufacturing date of the associated ink, each ink comprising an expiration date;

a reader/writer adapted to read data from an identified tag and to write the manufacturing date of the associated ink to the identified tag; and

a controller coupled to the reader/writer, the controller adapted to allow a user to instruct the reader/writer to write the manufacturing date of the associated ink to the identified tag while the ink container is installed in the printing system, and to determine if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.

30. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a printing system that comprises a plurality of ink containers, each ink container comprising an ink that comprises an expiration date, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of tags;

uniquely associating each tag with a corresponding one of the containers, each tag comprising rewritable data that identifies a manufacturing date of the associated ink;

installing the plurality of ink containers in the printing system;

providing a controller that allows a user to instruct ~~using~~ a reader/writer to read data from an identified tag and to write the manufacturing date of the associated ink to the identified tag while the ink container is installed in the printing system; and

determining if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.